documented petitions filed by the domestic industries. In the last two years (1999-2000 & 2000-2001) 46 cases were initiated on the basis of complaints filed by the domestic industry on products involving Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Steel and other metals and Consumer Goods.

(c) and (d) *Suo-motu* investigations can be initiated by the Designated Authority when it is satisfied with the information received from the Collector of Customs appointed under the Customs Act, 1962, or from any other source that sufficient evidence exists regarding dumping of the foreign goods, material injury to the domestic industry and casual link between the two. *Suo-moto* action has been initiated in the case of imports of Bisphenol-A from USA on 20.11.95 and Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes & Toys from China on 20.11.2000.

The anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol-A from USA has been withdrawn after Mid Term Review on 30.8.2000. The final findings have been recommended by the Designated Authority on imports of Dry Batteries on 13.7.2001 and definitive duty has been imposed on 2.8.2001. The preliminary findings have been recommended by the Designate Authority on imports of Sports Shoes on 25.1.2001 and provisional duty has been imposed on 9.2.2001. So far as Toys is concerned, investigations were initiated on 20th Nov., 2000, however, the case has been closed for want of sufficient evidence of injury to justify the continuation of investigations.

Introduction of smart card scheme

3088. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned "Postal Service to go plastic soon" which appeared in 'The Asian Age' dated the 10th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme of "Smart Cards" Government intend to introduce; and

(c) in what ways, the new scheme is intended to improve the quality of postal service to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Posts is exploring the possibility of card based payment solutions to facilitate cashless transactions. The proposal is at present at a preliminary stage and no final decision in the matter has been taken.

(c) the proposal under consideration is intended to improve the postal financial services by making it possible for the customers to transact business without carrying cash.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Pondicherry

3089. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO facilities available at Pondicherry, Karaikol and Mahe regions in the union territory of Pondicherry; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to give more STD/ISD/PCO facilities and what is the number of pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of STD/ISD/PCOs functioning in Pondicherry, Karaikol and Mahe regions in the union territory of Pondicherry are 680, 166 and 77 respectively.

(b) STD/ISD/PCOs will be provided as and when applications are received from eligible candidates subject to technical feasibility. No applications are pending in Pondicherry and Karaikol regions, However, 15 applications for allotment of PCOs are pending in Mahe region of union territory of Pondicherry.

Strike by postal employees in Manipur

3090. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal services in Manipur were affected in the first week of June, 2001;

(b) whether the postal employees had gone on an indefinite strike;